

# What is

## Section 9007 Rural Energy for America Program ?

Congress included the **Rural Energy for America Program** in the 2008 Farm Bill to foster rural economic development and growth. This program offers grants and guaranteed loan funds to finance renewable energy projects and energy efficiency improvements, as well as feasibility studies.

### Who can participate?

Rural small businesses  
Agricultural producers

### What types of projects?

#### Renewable energy projects

include projects that produce energy from: wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, anaerobic digester, hydrogen, ocean, and hydroelectric.

**Energy efficiency projects** include improvements to a facility, building, or process that reduces energy consumption, such as retrofitting, lighting, or insulation, or purchasing or replacing equipment and motors with more efficient units.

### Section 9007 Rural Energy for America Program

For more information, contact:

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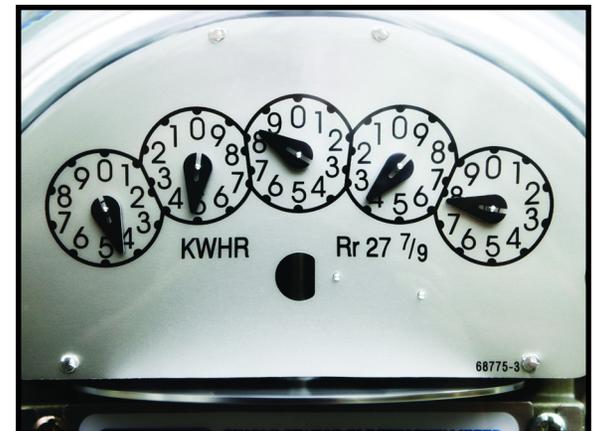
For program details, visit:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/energy>



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## Energy Costs Got You Down?

**Government Funding is Available  
for Renewable Energy and  
Energy Efficiency Projects  
To Help You  
Lower Your Energy Costs**

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# Start Your Application Today!

A Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) will be published in the Federal Register with specific due dates for applications; however, applications may be filed at any time in anticipation of the NOFA.

## Application Tips

1. **Visit our website** to access program information, learn about the application process, and access application forms:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html>
2. **Determine your eligibility.** If you have questions, contact Kevin Boone, Renewable Energy Coordinator, USDA Rural Development - Louisiana, at (337) 262-6601, extension 133, or [kevin.boone@la.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.boone@la.usda.gov)
3. **Scope out your project.** Contact area experts to assist you in designing your project.
4. **Start early.** The application process can be time consuming. Early preparation is the key to success.
5. **Submit your application before the deadline.** If you submit your application early, we can let you know if any information is missing.

**Renewable energy projects** can produce any form of energy, including heat, electricity, or fuel. The minimum project size for a renewable energy project is \$10,000.

**Energy efficiency projects** must replace something that already exists. The minimum project size for an energy efficiency project is \$6,000.

For all projects, the system must be located in a rural area or community of less than 50,000 persons and it must be technically feasible, meet environmental requirements, and be owned by the applicant.

Projects cannot involve residential use.

Project purchases incurred prior to submitting an application are not eligible.

## How much assistance can be provided?

Grant - 25% of total eligible costs		
Guaranteed loan - 75% of total eligible costs		
Combination grant and guaranteed loan - 75% of total eligible costs		
	<b>Renewable Energy</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency</b>
<b>Minimum grant</b>	\$2,500	\$1,500
<b>Maximum grant</b>	\$500,000	\$250,000
<b>Minimum guaranteed loan</b>	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Maximum guaranteed loan</b>	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
Grant for 25% of total eligible costs for a stand alone feasibility study		
Maximum grant level for energy audit and renewable energy assistance to be announced at a later date.		

**Rural small businesses** must meet the definition of a small business according to Small Business Administration small business size standards. A private entity, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, cooperative, and electric utility are eligible applicants. All other non-profit organizations and public bodies are not eligible applicants.

**Agricultural producers** must directly engage in production of agricultural products and at least 50% of gross income must be from the agriculture business.

## How do I apply?

Contact Kevin Boone, Renewable Energy Coordinator, USDA Rural Development - Louisiana, at (337) 262-6601, extension 133, or by e-mail at [kevin.boone@la.usda.gov](mailto:kevin.boone@la.usda.gov).



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Mandatory funding is available each year for grants and guaranteed loans to assist rural small businesses and agricultural producers with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects:

- Fiscal Year 2009 - \$55 million is available
- Fiscal Year 2010 - \$60 million is available
- Fiscal Year 2011 - \$70 million is available
- Fiscal Year 2012 - \$70 million is available

**Projects compete nationally for Rural Energy for America Program funding.**